

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 01937 311855Z
ACTION EUR-12

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 297
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1937

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE - CIVIL DEPUTY POSITION

REF: USNATO 00062

1. RALPH JEFFERSON TOLD EMBOFFS FRIDAY, JAN. 27 THAT HE HAD HAD A CORDIAL, RELAXED INTERVIEW THE PREVIOUS DAY WITH NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE COMMANDANT, GENERAL HESLINGA. HESLINGA CLOSED THEIR CONVERSATION BY ADDING THAT JEFFERSON HAD A "50-50" CHANCE FOR THE POSITION OF CIVIL DEPUTY. IF REFTEL'S REPORT ON HESLINGA'S DESIRE TO FAVOR (GIVEN EQUALLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATES) THE U.S. NOMINEE CONTINUES TO HOLD TRUE, THEN JEFFERSON'S CHANCES LOOK QUITE GOOD.

2. EMBASSY IS CONCERNED , HOWEVER, THAT HESLINGA'S DESIRE FOR POSITION TO GO TO U.S. MAY NOT BE ALL THAT STRONG. THE RECENT APPOINTMENT OF AN AMERICAN, COL. GEORGE JANCZEWSKI, TO THE POSITION OF ACADEMIC COURSE DIRECTOR MAY AFFORD HESLINGA THE OPPORTUNITY OF BALANCING THAT APPOINTMENT AGAINST CANDIDACY FOR CIVIL DEPUTY POSITION OF THE BELGIAN, TROUVEROY, AND HENCE PLEASING THE EUROPEANS AS WELL. ACADEMIC COURSE DIRECTOR DOES NOT, OF
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COURSE, EQUATE WITH CIVIL DEPUTY COMMANDANT EITHER IN PRESTIGE OR INFLUENCE.

3. WE HAVE NO "INSIDE INFORMATION" THAT HESINGA PLANS TO ATTEMPT SUCH A "BALANCE", ONLY A HUNCH BASED ON HIS REPORTED REMARK TO A U.S. MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE THAT WITH RECENT APPOINTMENT U.S. WAS NOW

WELL REPRESENTED AT THE SCHOOL. USNATO MAY BE BETTER
PLACED TO ASSESS THAT. WE LEAVE TO YOUR JUDGMENT
WHETHER A LITTLE CORRIDOR CANVASSING WITH MILITARY
COMMITTEE MEMBERS MIGHT PROVE USEFUL. PLUMPING FOR
JEFFERSON ONLY FAIR IN ANY EVENT AS HIS QUALIFICATIONS
STRIKE US AS FAR SUPERIOR TO THOSE OF TROUVEROY.GARDNER

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